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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, open our hearts to Your movement in our midst. As we trust Your providence and cling to Your promises, give us wisdom and spiritual eyes to see You at work.

Keep our lawmakers from being intimidated by the challenges they face, as you protect them by ordering their steps. Clothe them with the armor of integrity, shield them with Your truth, and guide them with Your power. Help our Senators to please You by living blameless, holy, and peaceful lives. Lord, give them a hunger for Your words and a desire to apply Your knowledge in their daily walk. We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3703 AND H.R. 3997

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3703) to amend section 5112(p)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, to allow an exception from the \$1 coin dispensing capability requirement for certain vending machines.

A bill (H.R. 3997) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide earnings assistance and tax relief to members of the uniformed services, volunteer firefighters, and Peace Corps volunteers, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators having 10 minutes each to speak. Shortly I will propose an agreement with respect to the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. That agreement will provide for a period of debate today with a concluding vote tomorrow at the completion of our weekly caucuses. There will be no rollcall votes today.

SENATE RECORD

Mr. REID. President Bush spoke from the Rose Garden this morning. It is hard to comprehend his words, the President of the United States going to the Rose Garden today, saying he wanted us to use the time left in this congressional year to "support our troops, and to protect our citizens, prevent harmful tax increases. . . ." He also indicated, in that same brief statement, that we as a Congress had little to show for our having been in a year.

We passed a budget, the first one in 3 years. It was a balanced budget we passed. We implemented—even though they were years and years overdue—the 9/11 Commission recommendations. We passed Homeland Security funding. We passed a pay raise for our troops—we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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